

MDP-14-01 - CLIMATE ACTION PLAN; OPEN SPACE
PROTECTION PLAN; AMENDMENT AND RE-ADOPTION
OF THE BURLINGTON MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In the year Two Thousand Fourteen.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, Burlington has a long history of climate planning and a commitment to sustainability, as illustrated in the Legacy Action Plan, and the Municipal Development Plan, among others; and

WHEREAS, Burlington's first Climate Action Plan was written in 2000 and adopted by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the updated draft involved extensive emissions data collection and analysis using the International Local Government Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Analysis Protocol developed by the Climate Registry and ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability); and

WHEREAS, this inventory found that Burlington's overall greenhouse gas emissions increased 7% from 2007 to 2010; and

WHEREAS, with the input of dozens of stakeholders representing the public and private sectors, and with extensive analysis conducted by Spring Hill Solutions and other energy and carbon management specialists, 39 top greenhouse gas reduction strategies were identified and included in the draft Plan; and

WHEREAS, implementing the strategies outlined in the Plan will help Burlington achieve its emissions reduction goals including: Goal 1) to stop the increase of emissions and bring 2016 levels down to 2010 levels in municipal government operations, airport operations, and community-wide operations respectively, and Goal 2) to reduce emissions attributable to municipal operations by 20%, emissions attributable to airport operations by 10% and community-wide emissions by 10% by 2025 respectively; and

WHEREAS, the draft Climate Action Plan, as recommended for approval by the Burlington Planning Commission on May 8, 2012, went to the City Council for the first of two public hearings in July 2012, and following that hearing, the Plan was re-organized with an emphasis on the 39 greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies organized around 7 over-arching greenhouse reduction goals that consider energy use, transportation, urban forestry, food, and waste; and

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WHEREAS, the City Council Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee adopted a draft of this resolution (as it pertains to the Climate Action Plan) with instruction to staff to add reference to the Energy Chapter of the Municipal Development Plan at its April 4, 2013 meeting (as set forth below, the reference was added); and

WHEREAS, if implemented, the strategies outlined in the updated Climate Action Plan will not only reduce Burlington's greenhouse gas emissions, but potentially save stakeholders money through reduced energy and transportation costs at the municipal and community level, positively impact air quality, spur the local economy, and improve the quality of life for all who live, work and play in Burlington; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, in collaboration with City Green (a city team representing Burlington's city departments charged with providing recommendations on how to reduce the environmental impacts of city operations while saving financial resources) can begin to prioritize strategies for near term implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Burlington 2014 Climate Action Plan is to be incorporated into the Energy Plan of the City's Municipal Development Plan pursuant to the requirements of 24 V.S.A. §4382, §4384 and §4432, and fulfilling the requirements of 24 V.S.A. §4384 and §4385 regarding the process for adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Burlington Conservation Board initiated the update of the City's Open Space Protection Plan in the summer of 2012; and

WHEREAS, the original Open Space Protection Plan, adopted in 2000, assembled a city-wide inventory of open spaces on public, private, and institutional lands, and established the Conservation Legacy Program to oversee the city's Urban Wilds; and

WHEREAS, the plan also established the newly formed Conservation Legacy Fund for open space acquisition and protection; and

WHEREAS, the original Plan was the basis for the city's Significant Natural Area zoning overlay which is intended to limit developmental impacts to ecologically significant lands in the city; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 update of the Open Space Protection Plan has revised the open space inventory, reflecting changes in land use and development, but also depicting open spaces at a much finer scale than in the original inventory; and

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WHEREAS, within the framework of that updated inventory the Plan identifies significant natural communities and assesses underrepresented natural communities, identifies prime agricultural soils (state and federally significant), identifies green infrastructure opportunities within the city's downtown core, maps formal and informal recreational trails, and includes proximity analyses of residents within ¼ mile of community garden, public parkland, and the waterfront; and

WHEREAS, the new data in the updated Plan will enable improved decision making relative to new development and acquisition of additional open spaces, new community garden opportunities identified and implemented in underserved areas of the city, improvements in the connectivity of the city's trail network, preservation of significant natural communities, and the greater use of green infrastructure within the city's downtown core; and

WHEREAS, the updated Open Space Protection Plan has been built on extensive public outreach and input including two rounds of public outreach, the first of which included presentations to each NPA in the winter of 2012 to present initial ideas and to solicit guidance from citizens as to what the update should accomplish, consultation with city boards and commissions, including the Conservation Board, Parks & Recreation Commission, and the Planning Commission, and meeting with a county-wide array of environmental groups and the second of which included public outreach in the spring and summer of 2013 which presented refined open space goals and objectives for the Plan update as well as a second round of consultation with each NPA, city boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, the update of the Open Space Protection Plan also involved the use of an online public input tool whereby people were able to see a map of the city with the open space inventory and post comments on the map for others to review and comment on; and

WHEREAS, the Burlington 2014 Open Space Protection Plan is intended to be incorporated into the Land Use Plan and Natural Environment sections of the City's Municipal Development Plan pursuant to the requirements of 24 V.S.A. §4382, §4384 and §4432, fulfilling the requirements of 24 V.S.A. §4384 and §4385 regarding the process for adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) requested an amendment to the data sections of the "Introduction" and "Relationship to Other Plans" sections of the 2013 Burlington Municipal Development Plan; and

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WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on November 12, 2013, on the proposed amendments to the Climate Action Plan, Open Space Protection Plan and the Municipal Development Plan, wherein the plans and other amendments were approved and forwarded to the City Council for public hearing and adoption; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments and plans were reviewed by the Planning Advisory Committee of the CCRPC on November 20, 2013, and it recommended approval to the CCRPC which will hold a public hearing on March 19, 2014, for final approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Burlington City Council hereby adopts the Burlington 2014 Climate Action Plan and Burlington 2014 Open Space Protection Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Burlington City Council hereby amends the 2013 Burlington Municipal Development Plan by incorporating the Burlington 2014 Climate Action Plan and the update of the Energy Plan Chapter and incorporating the Burlington 2014 Open Space Protection Plan and the update of the Land Use Plan and Natural Environment Chapter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Burlington City Council hereby amends the data sections of the Introduction and Relationship to Other Plans sections of the 2013 Burlington Municipal Development Plan as recommended by the CCRPC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2013 Burlington Municipal Development Plan, as amended by this resolution, shall hereafter be titled the 2014 Burlington Municipal Development Plan.